

## Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

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Good Afternoon, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). CCAG has over 20,000 member families and has consistently worked on health care issues over our 40 years of existence. On behalf of our members, I want to applaud you and the rest of Connecticut's elected leadership who are looking to lead on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and not wasting time playing silly tea bagger games.

In addition to being the Director of CCAG, I have had the honor over the past several years of serving as the Co-Chair of the Connecticut HealthFirst Authority and the Statewide Primary Care Access Authority, which both were created by the legislature. Through these Authorities I had the pleasure of learning from hundreds of people from Connecticut who participated in the process of developing our reports and recommendations. Much of the legislation that you are considering today reflects the input I heard and represents common sense steps to improve our health care system, while making it more affordable.

There are four bills that CCAG strongly endorses today.

**HB 6305 AAC Implementation of the Sustinet Plan:** The Sustinet Plan embodies much of what we heard during the work of the Authorities in terms of medical homes and emphasis on prevention. It is the direct result of the legislature overriding Governor Rell's veto in 2009. It is a financially sound way for Connecticut to implement national reform and to redesign our health system in a way that emphasizes health. The Statewide Primary Care Access Authority, made up for the most part of leaders from various medical professions, unanimously endorsed the Sustinet Plan at its last meeting. CCAG strongly endorses the plan because this will put Connecticut in the lead on implementing national reform and will save taxpayers, consumers, employers and state millions of dollars while improving our health care system.